

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2012  
MEADOW CROFT ESTATE  
SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Miles Borden            | Chairman, Town of Smithtown             |
| Kathleen Gooding, Ph.D. | Trustee, Town of Shelter Island         |
| Dawn Hopkins            | Vice Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven |
| Debra Kolyer            | Member of the Board                     |
| Alexander McKay         | Trustee, Town of Huntington             |
| Terrence Pearsall       | Member of the Board                     |
| William B. Sickles      | Trustee, Town of Southampton            |
| Richard F. White, Jr.   | Trustee, Town of East Hampton           |

**ABSENT**

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Gil Cardillo | Trustee, Town of Riverhead |
| VACANT       | Trustee, Town of Babylon   |
| VACANT       | Trustee, Town of Islip     |
| VACANT       | Trustee, Town of Southold  |

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Greg Dawson        | Commissioner                    |
| Tony Trotta        | Superintendent                  |
| Nick Gibbons       | Principal Environmental Analyst |
| Colleen Hofmeister | Principal Contracts Examiner    |
| Richard Martin     | Director of Historic Services   |
| Barbara Rittman    | Senior Clerk Typist             |

**GUESTS**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Lauretta Fischer | Chief Environmental Analyst, Planning Department |
| Tom Young        | County Attorney's Office                         |

**PUBLIC PORTION**

There were not any members of the public present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2012**

Page 1 – under DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND REAL ESTATE, Mud Creek Addition acquisition, include: funded by 1986 Open Space Preservation Program.

Page 2 – the Manorville County Greenbelt Addition and the Hampton Hills County Nature Preserve Program acquisitions, include both as being funded by the Old Drinking Water Protection Program.

Page 2 – under COMMISSIONER'S REPORT, last sentence in first paragraph, change to read: The seven rentals on the land, five of which are occupied, thankfully were not damaged.

**A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Dawson asked Colleen Hofmeister for an update on the RFP for West Sayville. Colleen reported that Lessings has been the caterer at West Sayville for more than twenty years and we have been very happy with their performance. Meadowedge is an historic facility and the concession has been a good source of revenue for the county. The addition of a handicapped ramp in front of the facility will be necessary since the only ramp presently is on a deck in the back of the building, off the bar area. The facility also needs some landscaping, trees along the driveway and a few other items. We normally ask proposers to give suggestions for improvements and occasionally they come up with important changes that have been overlooked.

Trustee Hopkins has agreed to sit on the Timber Point Restaurant RFP Evaluation Committee. That RFP is currently being implemented and responses are due back on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Six different entities have picked up the RFP package for Timber Point.

Trustee McKay inquired about required improvements to the Halfway House. Colleen reported that it is in very poor condition and that we are planning to have Jim Barr's crew take care of the demolition and removal of the existing building. We are asking the concessionaire to provide the materials for the building and after our crew has constructed it to our specifications, the concessionaire will provide a refrigerator, oven and whatever else is needed. We will also be requiring the addition of a beverage cart to the golf course at West Sayville. Trustee McKay volunteered to serve on the committee for the West Sayville Restaurant RFP.

**A motion to approve the RFP for a license to renovate, operate, maintain and manage a restaurant, bar and catering concession for West Sayville Country Club in West Sayville, New York was made by Trustee Borden and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**

Commissioner Dawson reported that we are still in need of Trustees to represent the Towns of Islip, Southold and Babylon. He thanked Colleen Hofmeister for all of her time, efforts and hard work drafting and implementing the RFPs. He announced that layoffs were voted on by the Legislature and will be going into effect July 1st. The Parks Department has 13 people on the layoff list, including Deputy Commissioner Tracey Bellone. Superintendent Jim Barr will be covering the Deputy Commissioner's responsibilities, as well as Superintendent Tony Trotta.

The Commissioner announced that golf rounds and revenues in March were up over 100%, thanks to the weather cooperating and the great job the grounds crew is doing maintaining the courses. Between the months of March and April, revenues were up approximately 68%.

Legislator Browning has requested an RFEI (Request For Expressions of Interest) for the marina and ancillary facilities at Smith Point. We had implemented an RFEI for several marinas, including Smith Point, in 2009. Colleen is currently working on the RFPs for West Sayville, Deep Hollow Stables and Timber Point and we requested to hold off the RFEI until December. Trustee Sickles asked for an explanation of the difference between an RFEI and an RFP. It was explained that an RFEI is implemented when we are looking for a show of interest and suggestions for what could be done at a particular property. Once we have a good idea of the type of project that is desired and the amount of funding that would be required, an RFP is created.

The renaming of Theodore Roosevelt County Park to Montauk County Park was tabled at the last Parks Committee meeting and will be put before the Renaming Committee. Once it gets through the Renaming Committee, it will go back to the Parks Committee and then be put before the entire Legislature. Commissioner Dawson made it clear to the committee at the meeting that the Montauk Historical Society is in favor of moving forward with the change.

Plans for The Battle on the Bay event are moving forward between all interested parties.

The Parks Department has been working very hard preparing for the Memorial Day weekend. Lifeguards will be on duty starting the Saturday of Memorial Day and continue through Labor Day. They will at Smith Point Beach seven days a week and at Cupsogue Beach on weekends only until the end of June when our full time coverage begins.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Borden thanked Trustee Hopkins for volunteering to be on the Timber Point Restaurant RFP Evaluation Committee. He suggested that at future meetings possibly arranging to have key Parks Department employees, such as our Chief of Police and our attorney speak on what their jobs entail behind the scenes. This would give the Trustees a better background of the scope of issues that the Parks Department encounters. Commissioner Dawson will give the idea some consideration.

### **ROUND TABLE**

Trustee White reported that there is going to be a renewed effort for a communication tower at the GATR site. The master plan for the Town of East Hampton emergency communications involves six towers. Five towers are already up and the last one is at the GATR site. This one is a very important and integral part, and now even more so because of the new frequency of UHF and VHF being limited causing the broadcasting to go from a shotgun approach to a rifle approach. This means they are going to need the tower to improve the site distances to the areas that are now unreachable. These emergency transmissions are used by fire departments and police departments. There is a large hole in the communication system right now and the GATR site is critical to that because it will provide communication capabilities all the way to Yaphank. The problem is who is going to pay for the tower. Initially, the Town of East Hampton had a capital fund for it, but that no longer exists. The equipment that had been purchased is now obsolete. We will need the County Attorney working together with the Legislature to help get this project completed.

Trustee White thanked Colleen for visiting Patrick Keogh at Deep Hollow Stables in Montauk to see the wonderful work he is doing and the rehabilitation at Third House. Trustee White inquired as to how busy it was out at the beach over the past weekend. He reported that a lot of the people who come out to the beach in Montauk are constant repeat visitors and they monitor that beach rules are followed themselves.

Trustee McKay noted that last month an osprey pair that had been nesting on a private sailboat at Sand City had been successfully moved with their nest and egg to a platform. Another pair of ospreys has appeared on a sailboat. Trustee Borden asked Nick Gibbons if he has seen an increase in the osprey population because he has seen a dramatic increase in his area. Nick reported yes and that we may have more now than ever because of all of the artificial nesting poles.

Colleen Hofmeister reported that Legislator Horsley put forward a resolution for an RFEI to look at historic properties within the park system and see if we could join in a partnership for individuals or businesses to rehabilitate the facilities and use them either as residences or places of business. The tenants would be required to provide public access to the facilities. Black Duck Lodge and the Elwood Schoolhouse have been selected to be the first two properties included in the RFEI. DPW is currently reviewing these properties to formulate a list of what improvements would be required in order to utilize them for various purposes. Colleen suggested to Trustee White that Third House could be included in the partnership at some point in the future. Richard Martin reported that the structure of the Elwood Schoolhouse is fine but the interior needs work. The heating, air conditioning, plumbing, and electric all need upgrading. Colleen noted that she has spoken with representatives from other states that have implemented programs similar to this over the past twenty years and they have reported them to be successful.

Richard gave an update on the Homan House in Yaphank and the historic Miller's House at Blydenburgh County Park. These are a current priority and we are ready to kick off a stabilization project with DPW. The work at the Blydenburgh mill building has been completed and Trustee Borden commented on the good job that was done. A lot of timber framing that had rotted through needed replacement and the piers and footings needed to be reconstructed there.

Trustee Sickles inquired if Terry Maccarrone still tracks the capital projects and if there is any news on plans for the boardwalk on the bayside at Cupsogue County Park because it had been sent over to DPW a while ago. The Commissioner will look into it for the next meeting.

Nick Gibbons reported that there have been sightings of 23 pair of piping plovers at 9 of our 15 sites. He noted to Trustee White that there is one over at Gin Beach on the county park side so we will need to discuss the Triathlon event.

Nick stated that there is a continuance of efforts to increase public usage of our passive parks. We are currently working on a project to reconfigure the parking at Makamah County Preserve, not on 25A but up on Makamah Road where the trail head is, on the north side. The other project is a property opposite Third House called Amsterdam Beach. There is a new parking lot there and we are working closely with the Town of East Hampton to establish a series of nature trails. Trustee White commented that it has been well received. Nick reported that the entrance sign should be ready for 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Trustee Sickles inquired regarding parking for access to McAllister County Park in Belle Terre Harbor. Nick stated that it has not been done. A recent request came from the Village of Belle Terre to repair some county park fence. Nick and the Commissioner went to the site to see where the requested fence repair was located. The 200 acre park is only accessible by boat, unless you are a Belle Terre village resident because the village has control of the roads. We declined the village's request to repair the fence because the job is too costly for property that the general public cannot use.

Trustee McKay inquired if there has been any change regarding Fresh Pond in Smithtown. Nick stated that he had the sign taken down on 25A. It's an open space parcel with no public access and there are no other changes at this time.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2012 at Coindre Hall, Huntington, New York.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.**